

2018: Mother's Day



***Maatri Devo Bhava, Pitri Devo Bhava /
Aachaarya Devo Bhava, Athithi Devo Bhava //***
(Taittiriya Upanishad, Shikshaavalli I.11.2)

Be the one who respects the Mother as God,
Be the one who respects the Father as God,
Be the one who respects the Teacher as God,
Be the one who respects the Guest as God.

Q: Why Mother's Day?

A: "Mother's Day" in the singular possessive honors the Mother of the family, Motherhood, the unconditional Maternal love and bonds* and the influence of Mothers in society, Mother Nature and the Supreme Mother – the mother of all. (**not to confuse with material*)

Celebrated on the second Sunday of May in some 115 countries across the world, Mother's Day has different meanings across countries, religions, history or tradition. The initiative would remain noble till we continue to recognize the contribution of mothers in our own-making.

Q: Mother's Day (singular) v Mothers' day (plural)

A: What the mother really wants is time for herself?

Some quality time with her children!

May 13, 2018: NBC news reports a survey by TopCashback.com where 55 percent of those consulted found that "spending time together" is the number one most-wished **Mother's Day** gift for 2018. But, WHY do most of us all get trapped into the present-day resentful commercial/trade- driven "**Mothers' Day**"? The herd mentality: we switch off our logic and blindly follow people around us.

Q: What is the origin of the word 'mother'?

A: Etymology accredits the origin of the word "mother" to "moder" in Middle English, "mōdor" in Old English, "mater" in Latin and "mātr" in Sanskrit.

Q: How do parents earn respect?

A: When parents respect their parents, their children and upcoming generations will, in an informal and forceful manner learn to respect their parents.

Q: What is the status of the mother in the Vedas and allied texts?

A: *Matrimaan pitrimaan aachaaryamaan purusho vedah* (Shatpatha Braahmana) states: "He/she alone can become a great scholar who has had the advantage of three good teachers, viz., the mother, the father, and the preceptor. The family is blessed and the child is most fortunate when the parents are righteous and learned." *The mother has a healthy influence on her children which surpasses that of everyone else. No other person can equal a mother in her love for her children, or in her concern for their welfare.* Matrimaan refers to the devout and cultured/learned mother who continuously strives to impart the universal Vedic (human/living) values, a truly spiritual tone to the mind of her child from the time of conception till his

knowledge is perfected. It is no surprise that ‘modern concepts’ concur with the Vedic ideals that the mother’s lap is the best university for the development of the humane aspect of children.

Sanskrit vocabulary defines mother as “Maataa nirmaatri bhavati”; she has a lead role to make the child’s future bright. The father, grandparents and relatives have an equal role but none can share the maternal bond.

Q: What is the status of the Mother in the epics?

A: *The Ramayana*: Kaushalya and Subhadra is equally revered by Rama, Lakshaman, Bharat and Shatrughna. Bharat took Kaikeyi to task for her undue demands in spite that those demands were in his favor. That reveals a mother’s upbringing of the highest order; the values of righteous conduct were lived at all times.

The Mahabharata: The life of Yogiraj Shri Krishna Ji teaches us to care for the mother who gave us birth as well as the one who has brought us up with love, care and sacrifice. These may be one and the same person, but in modern days children grow-up with nannies and grannies. The parents and often elderly parents join in to share responsibilities; those with whom the child spend more time have a very important role in the physical, mental/moral/spiritual and social development of the child.

Q: Why is the mother referred as the pivotal force of society?

A: “Matri Devo bhava” calls upon one and all to respect the mother. Matrimaan is an explicit call upon the mother to be the pivotal force to increase awareness and knowledge, as well as transform and illumine the child.

Q: Why are mothers referred to as ‘the foundation of our society’?

A: The Vedas and related texts speaks volumes about the status of womanhood, especially about motherhood in a very glorifying and respectful way. If we want to form a society that stands up to highest benchmarks of principles and nobility, we need to accord her the highest glory and let her possess knowledge, dignity and leadership.

Mother’s Day should not be only one day where we shower gifts, have lunch, dinner, etc. and ...till next year!!!

Everything which goes comes around. The Vedic concept of Pitri Yajna is to honor the mother, father and elderly parents every day and while they are amongst us. As young mothers showing respect to our mother and mother-in-law, upcoming generations will, in a very subtle and forceful manner, learn to respect the mother.

In the words of Erich Neumann:

*Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one mother the wide world over.*

Acharya Bramdeo

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